

Reaching Forward

Past, Present, Future

Past Present Future

Challenge of the Christian life:
To think rightly about all three

Philippians 3:13-14

... forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus

In the Gospel, Where Is the Emphasis?



A very different answer is given today!

Historic Shift

Modern Christianity, in a dramatic reversal of its biblical form, promises to relieve the pain of living in a fallen world
... the promise of bliss is for NOW!

Larry Crabb, *Inside Out*

Where Did Paul Put the Emphasis?

- **II Corinthians 5:6-8**
 - Absent from the body, present with the Lord
- **II Timothy 4:6-8**
 - Crown of righteousness
 - Loved His appearing
- **Philippians 3:12-13**
 - Not yet attained
 - Not yet perfected
 - Not yet taken hold of

Today's Emphasis Is a Misplaced Emphasis

Historic Shift

Heaven > Happiness Now

Are We Guilty?

1. Misunderstand the gospel?
2. Misrepresent to others?

We Tend to Go to Extremes

The goal is impossible

The Goal of being a Christian

We've already arrived

Discouragement

Complacency

Either outlook will impede your progress

Mistakes . . . Discouragement

- Expect too much GROWTH right now
- Expect too much HAPPINESS right now

I Peter 5:6-10

Mistakes . . . Complacency

- Get too comfortable here
- Think we're farther along than we are

II Peter 1:10-11

Joyful Longing

Longing doesn't have to be miserable!

Genesis 29:20

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel.
And they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her

II Timothy 4:7-8

... all them that have loved His appearing

The Main Thing

**The main thing
is to keep the main thing
the main thing
... and the main thing is heaven!**

I Peter 1:13

Works in Progress

Right now, we are works in progress

Shouldn't see ourselves as any more . . . or any less!

Incomplete

In this world,
our fellowship with God
is incomplete

Job
19:25-27

The Point of Being a Christian

To be found in Christ at the resurrection

Philippians 3:7-11

The Goal Is Still Ahead

We haven't yet received the thing
that life in Christ is primarily about

Hebrews 4:1

Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a
promise being left of entering into his
rest, any one of you should seem to
have **come short of it.**

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 – *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”*
- Believe in that Word
 - Romans 10:11 – *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – *“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”*
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - I John 4:15 – *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
- Acts 2:38 – *“And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*